REMARKS

This paper is being filed with an RCE and in response to the final Office action mailed from the Office on December 27, 2005, which finally rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 10-14, and 16-27. All claims are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over U.S. Patent No., 5,920,873 to Van Huben et al. (hereinafter "Van Huben") and U.S. Patent No. 5,983,277 to Heile et al. (hereinafter "Heile").

Without prejudice, and without acknowledging agreement with or acquiescence to the rejections to the claims, applicants hereby amend claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 12, and 13 and also cancel claims 14 and 16-27. (Claims 2, 5-9, and 15 were canceled previously). Applicants submit that all of the claims pending after entry of this paper (i.e., claims 1, 3, 4, and 10-13) are in condition for allowance. Support for the claim changes can be found throughout the application and at, for example, page 9, line 46, page 10, lines 12-14, and page 13, lines 11-12 of the originally-filed application and in the originally filed claims and also at, for example, paragraph 87, 89, and 128 of the application as published (US 2002-0067364).

Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part, "a library of format readers for reading at least one intelligent design saved in a specific format" and "an automated format verifier linked to the format readers for matching the intelligent data to one of the format readers capable of reading the specific format without any user intervention."

As indicated in the background section of applicants' specification, existing software applications generate intelligent design data and save it in particular and different file formats. Unlike existing applications, a single software application with an automatic format verifier can automatically determine the specific format of any intelligent design data file and automatically identify from a library of format readers an appropriate format reader that is capable of reading that specific file format, all without any user intervention. Such a single application thus facilitates easy sharing of data files among multiple groups of designers that are working on

various and different phases and levels of a design, where each group typically uses particular tools and file formats that are unavailable and/or unfamiliar to the other groups.

Van Huben discloses the "creation of a model by interactive user activity" (col. 12, lines 65-66). Van Huben describes how the user selects a "filename" and "filetype" for the data on a "display screen section displaying" the data fields on a "control screen panel" (col. 13, lines 18-24; col. 15, 9-11). Van Huben at least fails to teach or suggest an automated format verifier as recited in amended claim 1. Van Huben simply is silent about such a verifier or its functionality as recited in amended claim 1.

Heile discloses a "work space" which is "a given engineer's view of the state of the PLD design project and includes a directory where all local source files are stored, and a view of the project database showing the processing operation results for those sets of source files" (col. 8, lines 52-58). Like Van Huben, however, Heile is completely silent about an automated format verifier or its functionality as recited in amended claim 1.

Given that each of Van Huben and Heile fails to teach or suggest at least the above-identified aspect of the sole independent claim, no combination of Van Huben and Heile could possibly have resulted in applicants' inventions recited in the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicants request entry and consideration of this paper and allowance of all pending claims (i.e., claims 1, 3, 4, and 10-13) in due course.

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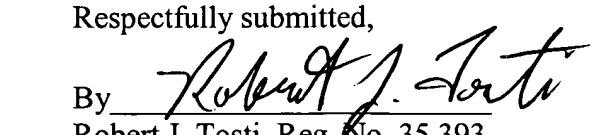
Respectfully submitted,

By 

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